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The FREEMASON

* * * * * * * * AND THE FEZ.

A Masonic and Fraternal Monthly Magazine

VOLUME VI. NOVEMBER, 1898. No. 11.

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The FREEMASON AND THE FEZ.

In the Interests of Freemasonry, the Concordant Orders of Iowa, and Fraternity Genrally.

VOLUME VI. CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, NOVEMBER, 1898. NUMBER 11

THE WICKED FREEMASONS.

By the kindness of Ed. D. Kohn, of Davenport, Iowa, we have this clipping from some newspaper:

A Barcelona newspaper, The Revista Antimassonica, has discovered that the Freemasons caused the war between the United States and Spain. The Catholic Review, which quotes the Spanish journal, states that the Franco-German war was also due to the machinations of the Masons. Dreyfus' iniquities are likewise to be laid at their doors, it is said. The Orangemen of Canada, the Review says, are also in the plot. They "showed as deep an interest," it continues, "in this matter as did the Masons of Detroit, when they joined in that symbolical banquet to a distinguished Mason more than a year ago." The Review concludes that the whole political world is now practically under the domination of Masonry:—"In France, in Italy, and lately in Spain, all political measures are in the hands of Freemasons, and subject to their exclusive control. Germany and the Scandinavian States are ruled by it; Asia, Africa and China are in its meshes, and 'free' England, 'enlightened' England, with her equally enlightened and progressive past and present colonies, is the Grand Mistress of Masonry throughout the world, for it has made her the mistress of the seas and the possessor of a large share of the wealth of the world. Our American neighbors, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela are in the control of the lodges and governed by the enemies of religion and of social order." Little did we know that Grand Master Gibson and Grand Sovereign Wallace were thus controlling the destinies of the world and disturbing its peace.

The first Scottish rite body in America is said to be the lodge of perfection in Albany, N. Y., established in 1767, by Henry Andrew Francken, and which is now of the obedience of the Supreme Council 33° Northern Jurisdiction.

THE BLACK BROTHER.

Bro. J. H. Drummond, of Maine, who is recognized generally as one, if not the best Masonic jurists in the United States, in writing upon the subject of Negro Masonry in 1876, when the matter was before the Grand Lodge of Ohio, and was postponed by a small majority, wrote as follows:

"To recognize them as independent Grand Lodges is the death of the doctrine of exclusive jurisdiction."

This is an objection, to be sure. But when we take into consideration the teachings and precepts of Masonry, why should a spirit of exclusiveness and intolerance be permitted to govern our action. All through Masonry, in every degree of the two Rites, which are in perfect harmony, the spirit of charity and tolerance is strongly and impressively inculcated. The Negro Lodges have the same parentage as our own, but have been estranged and separated, as brothers of a family are sometimes divided. They are received in some jurisdictions as visitors, which are in harmony with our own. The race to which most of their membership belong are not excluded *by law* from our bodies, but through initiation or affiliation, and as visitors from other jurisdictions, are often seen in our own Lodges. What is the matter with hearing those who may apply, and, if found worthy, granting such dispensations for Lodges as may be asked? This has been done from time immemorial for irregular Masons. It was done in Los Angeles a few years since for a clandestine body of white Masons; why not for all Masons? We believe in exelusive jurisdiction and conciliation when it is right.—*Trestle Board.*

The Masonic world will wait with anxiety the discoveries of Siddie Mahommet Ta'eiber—as the Los Angeles "Freemason" is pleased to announce them. Some *Indian* invented some of the side degrees we know.

There are 104 masonic bodies meeting regularly in the New York city Masonic Temple.

THE LODGES.

Algona Lodge and Chapter are thriving.

Masonry throughout Iowa is doing well.

At Bancroft the travelers toward the East are frequently accosted.

The Lodge at Burt has experienced constant and substantial growth.

Relief Lodge of Renville is growing and working. The two go together.

Grand Master Bowen of Iowa, issued an edict September 9, re-establishing Fraternal relations with the Grand Lodge of Peru. Received at this office Oct. 1, 1898.

Brother Robert E. French, Secretary of Rob Morris Lodge 46, Kearney, Nebraska, solves the problem of how to make a notice for a Lodge meeting attractive. Send to him for a sample. Better enclose stamp for reply.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

DISTRICT NO. 14.

At Council Bluffs Dec. 5 to 10, 1898, Lodges 58, 71, 126, 232, 234, 259, 271, 297, 335, 371, 380, 382, 400, 401, 415, 420, 423, 430, 449, 490, 492, 544.

DISTRICT NO. 21.

At Red Oak, Dec. 12 to 17, 1898, Lodges 137, 140, 153, 162, 253, 270, 285, 300, 341, 360, 373, 378, 379, 405, 412, 439, 453, 481, 493.

DISTRICT NO. 7.

At Waterloo, Dec. 26 to 31, 1898, Lodges 65, 87, 94, 105, 116, 131, 148, 216, 219, 222, 239, 261, 334, 340, 350, 393, 394, 417, 472, 511, 546.

ABIDE BY THEIR POSITION.

GRAND MASTER OF WASHINGTON MASONS DISCUSSES LOUISVILLE ACTION.

Seattle, Wash, Oct. 20—Past Grand Master J. M. Taylor, when shown the Associated Press dispatch from Louisville on the action of the grand lodge of Kentucky in withdrawing recognition from the grand lodge of Washington because it recognized negro lodges, said: "The Masons of the state of Washington are, in this matter, contending for a principle of right and justice. We can afford to bide our time until such time as the future shall demonstrate that the Masons of Washington are right on this question, just as the then loudly condemned abolitionists were right in their fight on slavery."—*Daily Press.*

THE ROYAL ARCH.

FROM THE GRAND HIGH PRIEST.

SIOUX RAPIDS, IOWA.

Sioux Rapids Chapter, No. 129, R. A. M., at Sioux Rapids, Iowa, was instituted September 16th, 1898, by Companion N. B. Hyatt, Grand King, of Webster City, Ia., acting as special deputy of Grand High Priest W. F. Cleveland. Their Charter was granted then by the Grand Chapter at its last annual convocation, held at Burlington, Iowa, in August last. J. E. Henriques, H. P.

ESTHERVILLE, IOWA.

Jeptha Chapter, No. 128, R. A. M., at Estherville, Iowa, was duly instituted October 3d, 1898, under its charter granted by the Grand Chapter at its last annual convocation, held at Burlington, Ia., last August. The Grand High Priest, W. F. Cleveland, was represented by Companion H. C. Shadbolt, Grand Principal Sojourner as his special deputy. This Chapter is reported in a very flourishing condition, with a membership of forty-five already and two teams under way. Frank M. Miller, High Priest and C. C. Doolittle, Secretary.

IN HONOR OF OUR G. H. P.

In acknowledgement of the honor conferred upon it by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the selection of companion W. F. Cleveland as Grand High Priest, Olivet Chapter gave a reception and dancing party at its parlors Friday evening, Sept. 30.

The ceremonies were opened with an invocation by ex-mayor Chatburn, followed by an address by High Priest W. C. Campbell. The guest of the evening, Grand High Priest Cleveland, made the response. Mr. E. S. Willard, High Priest of Ophir chapter, Atlantic, also made a suitable address, full of appropriate sentiment. The speeches were divided by excellent vocal selections given by a ladies' quartette composed of Mesdames Kail, Cleveland, Overholt and Miss Lonie Noble.

Dancing, with music by the Harlan orchestra and refreshments concluded a plesant gathering. Weber served.—*Tribune.*

The Grand Chapter of Illinois met in Chicago, Sept. 27th, and a pleasant time was enjoyed.

COMMANDERIES.

GRAND COMMANDER'S LETTER.

The local and state delegates to the twenty-seventh triennial conclave of the Knights Templars of America at Pittsburg have returned home, delighted beyond all measure with the pleasure of their entertainment at the hands of the good people of Pittsburg and with the fact that Iowa was recognized in a very handsome manner by the selection of Rev. J. C. W. Coxe of Washington, as grand prelate. In speaking of the trip Captain Geo. W. Bever, grand commander of the Knights Templar of Iowa, this morning said to a Gazette reporter:

"The twenty-seventh triennial conclave of the Knights Templar will ever be a memorable one in the history of the order. We have been most hospitably received and royally entertained in other cities, but Pittsburg outdid herself, both in the hospitality of our reception and our most gracious entertainment. Nothing like it has ever been attempted in the United States, and those who might have attended and failed will always regret that they were not with us.

"The Iowa delegation numbered about fifty, from Iowa Falls, West Union, Cedar Rapids and fourteen or fifteen other commanderies, and we had with us the Iowa Falls Military band, which is just as fine as any we heard on the trip, and Pittsburg was full of bands. Among the delegates were J. H. Pettibone, deputy grand commander, Burlington; D. M. Brownlee, grand generalissimo, Sioux City; W. H. Norris, grand captain general, Manchester; Alex. Peddie, grand senior warden; William Wilden, grand Junior Warden, Iowa Falls. Apollo Commandery of this city was represented by Past Grand Commanders Jas. Morton, E. O. Soule and Messrs. Hazeltine, Flanigan, Mihills, Chandler, Dr. Theodore S. Parvin and N. R. Parvin. The present representatives to the grand encampment are Past Grand Commanders Theo. S. Parvin and James Morton of this city; E. Olin Soule, Iowa Falls; T. R. Ercanbrack, Anamosa; D. W. Clements, West Union; F. H. Loring, Waterloo, and myself.

"The Iowa commandery was assigned to quarters in the court house, occupying the orphans' court room and two small rooms. They were most beautifully decorated with green wreaths and palms, as were the many other rooms of the same building, which were occupied by four of the Pennsylvania commanderies and the grand commandery of Missouri. The magnificent building was admirably adapted for the purpose, affording a splendid opportunity for the various commanderies to receive and entertain their friends from other states. On the great tower of the court house was one of the most beautiful and striking decorations, or illuminations, that I ever saw. It was a passion cross, made of electric bulbs, and was 117 feet long.

"This reminds me of another beautiful cross, such as was never seen before, in all probability. It was in the side of a mountain miles out from the city, and was lighted by natural gas. It could be seen for many miles and as one looked at it through the darkness and the almost impenetrable smoke which constantly envelops the Smoky City it seemed to be burning in the heavens.

"We let the people of Pittsburg and the hundreds of representatives from other states know that Iowa was represented, and with our elegant band were everywhere welcomed. One of the most interesting figures at the conclave was our own Dr. Parvin, once grand secretary of the grand commandery. Everybody knew him, and it is somewhat remarkable, considering his advanced age, that he knew everybody else, being able to call them by name and place them immediately.

"Iowa was handsomely recognized in the selection of Dr. J. C. W. Coxe of Washington as grand prelate, an honor which we all appreciate. There are but four appointive offices, and one of them came to Iowa, the others being grand standard bearer, Lee S. Smith of Pittsburg; grand sword bearer, Arthur McArthur, New York; grand warden, Harper M. Orahood, Denver; grand captain of the guard, Charles C. Vogt, Louisville. We made a quiet and dignified canvass for Rev. Coxe, and his appointment was no surprise.

"Of course the public will not be interested in any details concerning the sessions of the grand commandery, but they were of exceptional interest and very harmonious. One of the most important actions taken was the reduction of the per capita tax, which was very small, yet large enough to create an embarrassing surplus in the treasury.

"Perhaps the most brilliant function of a remarkably brilliant gathering was the banquet in the new auditorium, a building about 200 by 400 feet on the ground floor. For the first time in the history of the order the ladies were admitted to the banquet, which in every respect was a memorable occasion. The menu was superb, the service perfect and the American military band discoursed such music as is seldom heard. The toast master's table was in the center of the room, with the others running out fan-shaped. Between each course there was speaking, an innovation that was very pleasing, as it did away with any tiresome waits and made the entire program end with the completion of the last course. President McKinley was to have responded to the toast "Our Country," but was unable to attend much to our disappointment. The president, as you know, is a Knight Templar, being a member of the commandery at

Canton, his home. The ball in the same building, was perhaps the greatest social event in the history of Pittsburg, far above my powers to describe.

"On Tuesday eleven thousand Knights passed in grand review before Grand Master Thomas and his staff. The line of march took us to Allegheny City, across the river, and that vast body of men, under the banner of the cross, with sword and baldric, was certainly a most imposing sight. My experiences of the past summer had put me in good condition for the march of eight miles over rough granite pavements, but some of the Knights found it more than they bargained for.

"No body of men ever had kinder treatment than was accorded us by the people of Pittsburg. Fine rooms could be had in all parts of the city for $1 a night, and, with one single exception, I heard of no complaint on account of overcharges. The people of the city, not members of the order, did everything they could for our comfort and pleasure, and times without number I saw people of the city step up to strangers and ask them if they could show them the way to any place which they cared to visit, or extend them any other courtesy. The schools were dismissed for the entire week, and the conveniently located buildings were turned over to the Knights for their headquarters. Pittsburg commandery No. 1 had an immense building for their own use, and it was decorated with flowers, palms and plants until one could hardly have guessed what the building was ordinarily used for. It is said that it cost the commandery about $6,000 for the decorations alone, to say nothing of the bounteous hospitality which they dispensed.

"I should mention one little incident of the banquet. A double quartet had sung the Doxology and the grand prelate had invoked the divine blessing. The band started the "Star Spangled Banner," and nearly 1,500 voices joined in, each person waiving a silk flag which had been left beside his plate. It was an impressive scene entirely appropriate and timely, and never was a banquet begun under more auspicious circumstances—*The Gazette.*

We acknowledge numerous invitations to various receptions for the "Triennial" at Pittsburg, but the death of one of our fellow workers compelled us to abide at home so they had our "regrets."

Those who were there tell us that those who did not go to Pittsburg missed it greatly.

Outside of the honors coming to Iowa we have learned from the Daily Press that Reuben H. Lloyd of San Francisco, was elected Grand Master; H. B. Stoddard of Texas, Deputy; G. M. Moulton of Chicago, Generalissimo; Rev. H. A. Rugg, Rhode Island, Grand Captain General; W. B. Milish of Ohio, Grand Sr. Warden. We shall hope to give the full list next month.

THE EASTERN STAR.

GRAND OFFICERS

GRAND CHAPTER O. E. S, ELECTED AT CEDAR RAPIDS, OCT. 26, 1898.

Grand Matron—Mrs. M. B. Rathbone, Clinton.

Grand Patron—W. H. Norris, Manchester.

A. G. M.—Mrs. Freda Oppenheimer, Webster City.

A. G. P.—A. J. Small, Des Moines.

Grand Sec'y—Mrs. Maria Jackson, Council Bluffs.

Grand Treasurer—Mrs. Ella L. Houghton, Red Oak.

G. C.—Mrs. Nettie Hilliard, Marion.

H. G. C.—Mrs. Jane Webber, Cherokee.

COMMITTEES.

Credentials—Mrs. Alma Ward, Eldora.

Finance—Mrs. Sarah E. Wovep, Mt. Pleasant.

Unfinished Business—Mrs. Lucinda Ford, Manchester.

Jurisprudence—A. B. Hyatt, Webster City.

Appeals and Grievance—T. R. Ercanbrack.

Dispensations and Charities—Delia B. Meredith, Newton.

Chartered Chapters—Belle Adamson, Le Mars.

Addresses—Mrs. Jennie Matthews, Rockford.

Correspondence—Mrs. Jennie Rule, Mason City.

Mileage—Geo. H. Jackson, Council Bluffs.

Chaplain—Mrs. Margaret Haden, Davenport.

Adah—Jennie Hart, Parkersburg.

Ruth—Mrs. Alice D. Graham, Boone.

Esther—Kittie Lezotte, Muscatine.

Martha—Mrs. Mary A. Clements, West Union.

Electa—Mrs. A. M. Mendel, Neola.

Warder—Mrs. Lena Townsend, Lake City.

Sentinel—Amos Alberson, Washington.

Marshal—Mrs. M. A. Evans, Cedar Rapids.

[Owing to the lateness of the session the Minute Notes of the Grand Chapter must go over to December.]

THE FREEMASON AND THE FEZ.

Published Monthly

In the interest of Freemasonry in Iowa, and Fraternity generally.

JOHN WESTLEY GEIGER, K T., 32°, EDITOR

P. O. Drawer E, Marion, Iowa, for all business and exchanges.

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Address all correspondence to

JOHN WESTLEY GEIGER, Editor.
Drawer E, Marion, Iowa.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, NOVEMBER, 1898

GRAND GATHERINGS.

GRAND LODGES MEET.

Iowa, Mason City, June 6, 1899.

CROM BOWEN.....Des Moines.....GRAND MASTER
T. S. Parvin.....Cedar Rapids.....Grand Secretary

CONVOCATIONS, R. A. M.

Iowa, Grand, Red Oak, October 19th, 1899.
W. F. CLEVELAND..Harlan....GRAND HIGH PRIEST
Alf. Wingate.....Des Moines.....Grand Secretary

CONCLAVES K. T.

Grand Encampment, Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 14, 1898.
Iowa Grand, Templar Park, July 14, 1899.
G. W. BEVER.....Cedar Rapids..GRAND COMMANDER
Alf. Wingate.....Des Moines.....Grand Recorder

GRAND CHAPTERS O. E. S.

General Grand (U. S.,) Washington, D. C., Sept. 27, 1898
Iowa, Oct. 26,, 1898. Cedar Rapids.
MRS. DELIA B. MEREDITH..Newton..GRAND MATRON
W. H. Norris.....Manchester.....Grand Patron
Mrs. Maria Jackson...Council Bluffs.....Grand Recorder

THE MYSTIC SHRINE.

Imperial Council, Buffalo, N. Y., June 13 1899.
ETHELBERT F. ALLEN..Kansas City..IMP. POTENTATE
Ben. W. Rowell.....Boston, Mass.....Recorder

El-Kahir Temple, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
E. I. ALDERMAN .....Marion ..... POTENTATE
John Westley Geiger.....Marion.....Recorder

Kaaba Temple, Davenport, Iowa.
GEO. F. WHITE.....Davenport.....POTENTATE
C. J. Brown.....Davenport.....Recorder

Tangier Temple, Omaha, Nebraska.
H. HARDY.....Omaha.....POTENTATE
S. R. Crickmore.....Box 523, Omaha.....Recorder

The "Kids"—Imperial Romp, Buffalo, N. Y., June 13, 1899.
HARRISON DINGMAN, Washington, D. C., Imp. Chief Kid
John Westley Geiger.....Marion, Iowa....Registering Kid
(Past Imperial Representatives any year eligible to membership.) Free?

THE SCOTTISH RITE.

The bodies of this Rite in Buffalo continue to prosper greatly.

The Ballustre for the seventeenth special Reunion of the Rite in the Valley of Des Moines, on November 15, 16, 17 and 18, is out. They always have a good time there.

THE MYSTIC SHRINE.

An effort is being made by the Nobles of Dubuque to secure a Temple of the Order for their city.

Next month we shall begin a series of articles on the History of El-Kahir Temple, which we shall supplement with an outline of the history of the Order.

Kaaba Temple, Davenport, went for the third time, to Burlington on the 27th of October. As usual, they had a fine time. Their notice was a neat specimen of the printer's art.

The number of Pilgrimages is on the increase as the war-talk dies down and the desire for the honors of the Order rise up.

NOBLE "BOB FRENCH."

One of the new friends of the "Shrine week" and one who got one of our "Midway Programs" was Robert E. French of Kearney, Neb. Along with his being the "Pioneer Blacksmith" he is an officer, a Grand officer and a Past Grand officer of several renowns. He's Grand Lecturing R. A. M. of Nebraska, (wish we had his portrait), and he's a poet.

In connection with his "every day calling" he gives this hint to the "Weary Willies:"

As I grow older day by day,
I find it hard, very hard to pay
The little bills that I owe.
From now on I must go slow,
Or the sheriff will close my door,
My anvil then will ring no more;
I have no further time to talk,
Move on "Weary Willies," take a walk.
—"BOB."

His "Fraternal Greeting," dedicated to Bro. Wm. R. Bowen, Vet. Grand Sec'y of Nebraska, we hold for a future number, but his Greeting to the Editor personally must go in because its from "Bob."

SEND ME A FREEMASON WITH A FEZ ON.

If you can wield your pen as you did your jaw
When I last met you in old Omaha,
You surely are welcome to this ½
Knowing I will enjoy many a laugh.
"BOB."

HIS YELL.

A—Ley—Koo—Moo—Es Salam—Ma—
All—A—hih—Wih—Bar—rah kah too
Ha—Ha—Ha—Oh—Ma—Ma.

Whether we make him laugh as often as he expects or not, we shall surely hope to meet him face to face. Even if we have to keep still about politics.

THE DAUGHTERS OF ISIS.

The eligibles for this auxiliary degree to the Nobility of the Mystic Shrine should not forget the FIRST VIGIL to be held at Masonic Temple, Cedar Rapids, Dec. 21, 1898, at 5 p. m.

The wives of candidates for the Shrine who report at this meeting are eligible. *This needs looking after.*

Send your name, address and $2.50 to J. W. Geiger, Recorder, Marion, Iowa.

THAT PRAYER.

Far and wild have swept the waves of indignation; hot as the "limpid flame upon the sterile shores of the Red Sea" have been some of the criticisms; with uplifted hands have some expressed their horror at the sacrilege of addressing the Deity in a Council of the Mystic Shrine as "Allah the Merciful, the Compassionate." Yet, this calls for no recrimination from the Nobility. To be thankful that the assembled Nobles had "not been cast into Alhotama" may have been untimely and irreverent—for are they not all good—but the mind uttering the voice thought only of thanks that condemnation had not fallen upon any of the members present. To criticise the use of "Allah," the Arabic for God, was no more improper there or then than to use "Yeva," "Jah," or Almighty Father of the Universe" somewhere else. It is merely a confusion upon the part of those without who know not their mystic tongue. It seems to us in as good part to allow these Nobles of the Mystic Shrine their way, as it is to accept "High Priests," "Most Excellent High Priests," and the use of so-called sacred names in the other orders of earth. To the worthiness or unworthiness of the one who offered that prayer we are not required to answer. What one might in all sicerity be thankful for another may account unbecoming. It is well always to judge with equity, and to speak the language of unkindness with great care. Time may witness changes, and none of us can afford to thrust a knife into the heart of a brother without incurring the penalty of so cruel an act. Amen.

Any brother who desires to visit a Lodge in California, is required to show a receipt for his last year's dues.—*The Trestle Board*

THE COUNCIL.

Companions all over the State of Iowa should keep in mind that after January first the Cryptic and Capitular degrees are separated.

That will mean that to retain standing as a R. & S. M. you must unite with a regularly constituted Council under the jurisdiction of a Grand, or the General Grand Council.

Oskaloosa proposes to be one of the first to line up for work in the S. V., and they intend to apply for a dispensation just as soon as it is in order—Jan. 1, 1899.

Other places will follow or accompany the Mahaska's—and we think that a few *well* located Councils with quarterly round ups would be far better than a Council to each Chapter. Of course, where a large Chapter exists they can easily maintain a Council.

This journal always held for the separation, not to get another body on the floor, but because we are clandestine under present conditions, and the history of a few antics in the progress of the case will some day make spicy reading.

The Grand Council of Illinois met in Chicago Oct. 26th, but we did not attend. Why? We're still clandestine. See?

FRATERNITIES.

The editor of this journal is looking for information which will be used for the common good in this department Address, Drawer E, Marion Iowa.

The National Fraternal Congress meets this month in Baltimore, Md.

The Odd Fellows of Detroit, have secured the Sovereign Grand Lodge meeting for their city for next year. Various prizes are to be offered for competitive drills, etc.

From Edmund Jackson, Supreme Sec'y we have the Proceedings of the Supreme Lodge Mystic Workers of the World for 1898.

PRESS ACCURACY.

The Chicago Times-Herald report, Sept. 27, '98, of the Grand Lodge, Knights of Honor of Illinois, meeting at Springfield, says: "The Rathbone Sisters' auxiliary to the Knights of Honor is also holding a state convention. (!!) Knights of Pythias will object to *their* sisters auxiliating that way.

THE FRATERNITIES.

Fraternity should insist upon equality. Because a member of your lodge is highly connected or well off in earthly goods is no reason why he should have more liberties in the lodge management.—*Michigan Herald.*

OLD LINERS CHANGELESS.

I never read an article from the pen of an old liner, whether it be from an agent or a prejudiced insurance commissioner, but that I feel like asking them to inform the dear people whether the multiform system that characterizes the "policy market" today has come down the lines unchanged from the first. Their argument that Fraternal indemnity is an experiment comes with poor grace and no force, since by their own machinations they have been shrinking inward until the "fraternal policy" of the N. Y. Life is being sold when other signs fail—and the Massachusetts Mutual is selling a straight and reliable policy cheaper than the Foresters to-day. If they can afford this so can we. If, with their expensive service and costly machinery they can cut to the lowest price, and live, we can "cooperate" and exist.

OUR DEAD.

We will consider it a favor if our readers will send us the names and date of deaths among the Masonic Family,—Editor.

Wm. Stack, Independence, Ia., Sept. 9, '98.
Wm. Wilson, Jr., Washington, Ia. Sept. 15, 1898.
Wm. N. Hood, Washington, Ia., 14, 1898.
C. W. McElyea, Ames, Ia., Sept. 18, 1898.
James P. Sturrock, Boone, Ia., Sept. 22, 1898.

P. S.—By some means the list of "Our Dead" was left out last month and a number of names have been missed of which no duplicate record was had—EDITOR.

FROM FATHER DEERING.

J. W. GEIGER:—

Dear Sir and Bro—On Sept. 9, 1898, we laid to rest Wm. Stack. He was born in Canada July 4, 1815, and made a Mason in Canada in 1843, and was Tyler of our Lodge 27 years, and was buried with Masonic honors.

Fraternally,
D. S. DEERING, Sec'y.

Masonic circles in Washington, Ia., have been deeply afflicted in the loss of two prominent Brothers and Sir Knights within a day of each other. William Wilson, Jr., and the writer were close companions in fraternal work for more than a year past and his sudden taking off with a stroke of paralysis was a painful surprise to his hosts of friends. Thus passed the noblest of fathers and a man who stood well with God and men.

The death of Sir Knight Hood was accidental and was most heartrending in the manner and time of his demise.

The death of Noble C. W. McElyea of Ames, was a surprise to us all. He had been away in search of health, or was going when we last met him. He was an active, energetic business man.

DON'T GROW NARROWER.

Our brother of the "Trestle Board" in an editorial (August) on "Serving God and Mammon," may have just grounds of complaint against men who neglect the Masonic bodies—but divide their time and attention among half a dozen *benefit* societies—yet we do not like the tone of his conclusions any better than the haughtiness of his reference to the *benefit* societies of which we are surrounded today. They have their field, Masonry has its own—both have equal rights of existence and patronage. God forbid that even Masonry should come into the constraint of the sects and we certainly think we have had experience enough in intradicting clandestine Masonic connections not to go out after more than we could handle. No, Brother Trestle Board, don't grow narrower——anywhere——not around anything you represent—it would tarnish the bright record you have made as a champion of "Universal Masonry and Masonic freedom." Don't *ever* "think that membership in some other organizations should exclude such from Masonry." Our opinion is that it would be an advantage if many men, members of one "Christian Sect," could hold at least honorary membership in another holding a divergent creed! They would know more. Masonry can stand all the competition divergent benevolent methods can bring up, and we hope this business of "Joung" will not be interfered with by the Trestle Board; at least not yet.

WHY ROAR AT THE BLIZZARD.

"The Masonic Advocate" arises to a startling and heroic pitch against "A Gross Violation of Masonic Law and Usage," because North Dakota with a dispensation by the Grand Master, conferred the degrees upon a number of soldiers of Fargo. *The Advocate* may not be well informed in regard to the law; he certainly does not treat very courteously the class of enlisted men who *from the whole number enlisted* were selected for the honors of Masonry. Up in North Dakota they have a right to do what they Masonically please just as they have down in Indiana. What does The Advocate think of the "Military Lodges" of the Army, held in a tent, and into which many of the boys in blue have been *initiated, passed* and *raised*. This journal would increase the powers of the Craft and if anybody is to make 'em at sight do it as they do in North Dakota and not as they wanted to do in Virginia. North Dakota has its advantages. Its blizzards develop the muscle and brawn of its sons and the Chinook winds softens their hearts until they can't help thinking that nothing is too good for the boys in blue.

SAFETY OF RAILWAY TRAVEL.

Last year on American railways one passenger was killed in accidents out of every 2,827,474 passengers carried. That is to say, you can take a train 2,827,474 times before, on the law of averages, your turn comes to be killed. You will have to travel 72,093,963 miles on the cars before that turn comes, and 4,541,945 miles before you are injured. If you travel 20 miles every day for 300 days in the year, you can keep on at it for 758 years before your turn comes to be hurt. If there had been railways when our Savior was born and you had begun to travel on the first day of the year A. D. 1, and had traveled 100 miles in every day of every month of every year since then, you would still have (in this year 1898) nearly three million miles yet to travel before your turn came to be killed.

MORE SHRINE ADVERTISING.

"My goodness, what a rush there is for degrees. The newly-made Master Mason barely has time to get his breath before his petition is with the Chapter. The night he takes his Royal Arch degree he is solicited to sign a petition for the Commandery, and, of course he cannot afford to be without the Council, and now he joins the class for the degrees of the Consistory, *and then has no peace until a Shriner's button adorns the lapel of his coat.* And when it is all over, what has he in return? A potpourri of signs, pass-words and grips, an expenditure of three hundred dollars and absolutely no conception of Freemasonry. All he knows is degrees. This haste is undermining the institution of Masonry, and, unless stopped, will some day lead to serious consequences.'—*Illinois Freemason.*

The cost of Solomon's Temple, as figured out by a noted statistician and investigator, who has lots of time for such work, is, in round numbers $52,117,034,867.46. We are glad that he got the odd cents on.

A fire in the Masonic hall in Washington cost Potomac Commandery $1,000 in loss of its paraphernalia. It should have had its goods and chattels insured.

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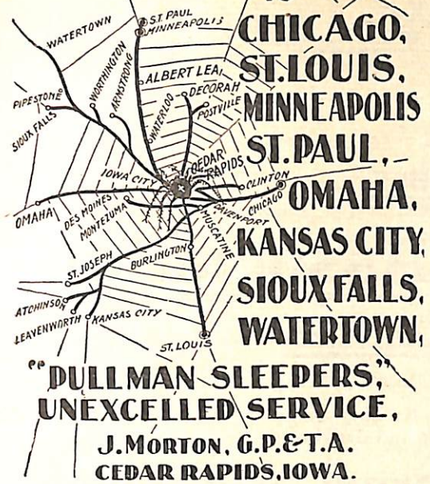

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